

المراط المستقيم

"The Straight Path"



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Introduction

Every soul will taste death. But how we live determines what happens next. In this book, we will explore the journey of two individuals—a sinner who ignores his faith and a Hafiz who devotes his life to Islam. Through their stories, we will reflect on the choices we make and the lessons Allah has given us. Life is short, but its consequences last forever. The decisions we make today will shape our eternity. This book is not just a story—it is a call to reflection. Every Muslim has the opportunity to shape their own fate by choosing the straight path. If we wish to succeed in this life and the next, we must take our faith seriously and act upon it daily.

PART ONE: UNDERSTANDING OUR PURPOSE

Chapter 1: The Purpose of Life

Allah created us with a purpose—to worship Him and follow the straight path. In Surah Adh-Dhariyat (51:56), Allah says, *"And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me."* But many people forget this and chase after worldly desires, seeking wealth, status, and temporary pleasures instead of focusing on the Akhirah. Life is a test. Allah says in Surah Al-Mulk (67:2), *"[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed."* Every hardship, every blessing, every moment is part of this test. Those who remember Allah and obey Him will pass, while those who ignore His guidance will regret it.

Chapter 2: The Illusions of the Dunya

The world offers distractions that pull us away from our faith. Social media, entertainment, peer pressure, and material desires consume our time. Allah warns us in Surah Al-Hadid (57:20): *"Know that the life of this world is only play and amusement, pomp and mutual boasting among you, and rivalry in respect of wealth and children. It is like the vegetation after rain, which pleases the tillers; then it dries up and you see it turn yellow; then it becomes dry and crumbles away. But in the Hereafter is severe torment [for the disbelievers], and forgiveness from Allah and His Good Pleasure [for the believers]. And the life of this world is only a deceiving enjoyment."* A wise person does not get attached to what is temporary. Instead, they focus on what will last forever: Jannah.

PART TWO: THE LIVES WE CHOOSE

Chapter 3: The Sinner and the Hafiz

The Sinner

He wakes up every day without Fajr, neglects prayer, and spends hours on entertainment, forgetting about his duties to Allah. He lives for the world, not realizing that this world is only temporary. He delays repentance, thinking, *"I will change later."* He commits sins without remorse, arguing that "Allah is Merciful," but forgetting that Allah is also Just, holding everyone accountable for their deeds with perfect fairness. He wastes time, his heart becomes hardened, and his soul becomes distant from the remembrance of Allah.

The Hafiz

He starts his day with Fajr, recites the Quran, and makes dua, knowing that life is a journey toward Allah. He is mindful of his deeds, avoids sin, and seeks knowledge. He understands that this world is a bridge to the next, so he prepares for the Akhirah. Both live their lives differently, but they will face the same end: **death**.

Chapter 4: The Angel of Death

One day, death arrives for both. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, *"The grave is the first stage of the Hereafter. Whoever passes through it safely, everything after will be easier. But if he does not pass through it safely, everything after will be harder."* (Tirmidhi) For the sinner, death is terrifying. He sees angels descending with dark faces. His soul does not want to leave his body, and it is forcefully pulled out, causing unbearable pain. For the Hafiz, death is a relief. The angels arrive with smiling faces, bringing the scent of Jannah. His soul is gently taken, like a drop of water falling from a glass.

PART THREE: THE AFTERLIFE

Chapter 5: The Grave and Barzakh

As soon as a person dies, their soul begins its journey into the afterlife. The sinner, who ignored prayer and lived for the world, faces punishment in the grave. Angels question him, but he cannot answer correctly because he did not live by the truth. His grave tightens around him, and he sees the fire of Jahannam. The Hafiz, however, is welcomed by angels. His grave expands, and he is shown his place in Jannah. He rests peacefully, knowing that he has lived righteously. This stage, known as **Barzakh**, is a waiting period before the Day of Judgment.

Chapter 6: The Day of Judgment

On the Day of Judgment, everyone will be resurrected. The sinner's deeds are heavy with sins, while the Hafiz's book is filled with prayer, Quran recitation, and good deeds. The Hafiz is given shade under Allah's throne, while the sinner stands in fear. Allah says in Surah Al-Kahf (18:49): *"And the record [of deeds] will be placed [open], and you will see the criminals fearful of that within it, and they will say, 'Oh, woe to us! What is this book that leaves nothing small or great except that it has enumerated it?'"* At this moment, the sinner begs for another chance, but it is too late. No more time remains for repentance.

Chapter 7: Jannah or Jahannam

The Hafiz is granted Jannah, a paradise of eternal bliss, where rivers of milk and honey flow, and no sadness exists. The sinner, however, is led toward Jahannam. Allah's mercy is vast, and He may forgive some, but for those who refused to repent and denied the truth, punishment is severe. Allah warns in Surah Al-Munafiqun (63:10): *"And spend [in the way of Allah] from what We have provided you before death approaches one of you and he says, 'My Lord, if only You would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be among the righteous.'"* But when death comes, time runs out.

CONCLUSION: A LESSON BEFORE THE GRAVE

This book is a reminder: **We still have time.** We can choose to live like the Hafiz or the sinner. The choice is ours. Before it is too late, let's turn to Allah, seek forgiveness, and follow the path of Islam. What will we choose? The pleasures of this world or the eternal rewards of Jannah? The answer lies in our daily actions. May Allah guide us all to the straight path and grant us Jannah. Ameen.